

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HAMBUR 00558 031211Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

CU-02 NIC-01 COME-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 /066 W

----- 085722

R 031000Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL HAMBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3352

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAMBURG 0558

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJ: APRIL 13, 1975 LAND ELECTIONS IN SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN

REF: A-7 OF MARCH 13, 1975

1. WITH LESS THAN TWO WEEKS TO GO BEFORE THE APRIL 13 ELECTIONS, THE CANDIDATES ARE BEGINNING TO REPEAT THEMSELVES AND TO DRAW SMALLER CROWDS IN THEIR PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS OF THE ISSUES OF UNEMPLOYMENT, INFLATION AND LAWLESSNESS. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, A NEW ISSUE - THE PERSONALITY AND POLITICS OF FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS - HAS BEGUN TO LIVE UP AN OTHERWISE LISTLESS ELECTORAL RACE. THE CONFIDENCE OF THE CDU THAT THE PARTY WILL BETTER ITS PERFORMANCE OF FOUR YEARS AGO WHEN IT WON AN IMPRESSIVE 51.9 PERCENT MAJORITY VICTORY OVER A BADLY DEMORALIZED AND DISSENSION-RIDDEN SPD/FDP COALITION IN THE LANDTAG ELECTION OF 1971 HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT DISSIPATED BY WHAT DR. OLAF VON BREVERN, ONE OF STOLTENBERG'S MOST TRUSTED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HAMBUR 00558 031211Z

CONFIDANTES, HAS DIAGNOSED AND DESCRIBED AS THE MOOD OF

"STRAUSSOMANIA" CURRENTLY AFFECTING THE CDU IN THE STATE. A GLOOMY MIASMA OF APPREHENSION ABOUT THE ELECTION NOW SEEMS TO GRIP THE PARTY AND STOLTENBERG AND HIS FELLOW PARTY CANDIDATES ARE PLAINLY WORRIED ABOUT THE EFFECT THAT STRAUSS' EXPECTED STUMPING OF THE STATE WILL HAVE ON THE UNCOMMITTED AND MODERATE VOTERS IN SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.

2. THE CDU HAS LITTLE REASON TO FEAR A RESURGENCE OF SPD AND FDP STRENGTH IN THE STATE WHICH, TOGETHER, COULD THREATEN TO TOPPLE THE STOLTENBERG INCUMBENT PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT. IT STILL DOES NOT SEEM TO BE IN THE CARDS THAT A BADLY FRAGMENTED SPD AND FDP COULD MUSTER THE NECESSARY LAST MINUTE STRENGTH TO SLOW DOWN THE MOMENTUM OF THE PENDULUM IN SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN TOWARD AN IMPRESSIVE ELECTORAL VICTORY FOR THE CDU. NEVERTHELESS, BITTER AND PERSONAL ANTAGONISMS HAVE BEEN SET IN MOTION BY STRAUSS WHICH WILL HAVE, WE BELIEVE, A RELATIVELY ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE OUTCOME FOR THE CDU.

3. AS THE CAMPAIGN NOW ENTERS THE HOME STRETCH, THE PRINCIPAL CANDIDATES - THE INCUMBENT MINISTER-PRESIDENT GERHARD STOLTENBERG; KLAUS MATTHIESEN, THE SPD CANDIDATE RUNNING AGAINST HIM; AND UWE RONNEBURGER, THE FDP STANDARD BEARER - HAVE PRETTY WELL BEEN JOSTLED INTO THE WINGS BY THEIR NATIONAL PARTY LEADERS STUMPING THE STATE. STOLTENBERG, NETTLED BY CONSTANT CHARGES ON THE PART OF HERBERT WEHNER, THE SPD FLOOR LEADER IN THE BUNDESTAG, THAT STOLTENBERG AND STRAUSS ARE "THREATS TO DEMOCRACY", HAS HURLED BACK A REJOINDER IN A RECENT SPEECH AT NORDERSTEDT THAT "I REFUSE TO ALLOW THE GRAVE-DIGGER OF GERMAN DEMOCRACY TO CALL ME A THREAT TO DEMOCRACY". STOLTENBERG HAS INTIMATED THAT IF WEHNER PERSISTS IN ATTACKING THE PERSONAL INTEGRITY OF CDU LEADERS THAT THE CDU WOULD HAVE NO RECOURSE BUT TO DRAG WEHNER'S POLITICAL PAST INTO THE CAMPAIGN.

4. BRANDT AND MATTHIESEN HAVE ENTHUSIASTICALLY BEEN ZEROING IN ON STRAUSS IN THEIR RECENT SPEECHES IN THE STATE. BRANDT HAS CHARGED THAT BOTH MINISTER-PRESIDENT HELMUT KOHL OF RHEINLAND-PFALZ AND STOLTENBERG LACK THE POLITICAL CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HAMBUR 00558 031211Z

COURAGE TO REPUDIATE STRAUSS FOR HIS "REACTIONARY BELIEFS" AND MATTHIESEN, TOUCHING A SENSITIVE SPOT, AT A RECENT SPEECH IN KIEL, HAS CHARGED THAT STOLTENBERG HAS DONE HIMSELF AND HIS PARTY A GREAT DISSERVICE BY REFUSING TO DISASSOCIATE THE CDU IN SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN FROM "THE UNDISCIPLINED AND REACTIONARY POLICY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC'S MOST DANGEROUS MAN".

5. AS THE CAMPAIGN ENTERS ITS CLOSING DAYS, RECRIMINATIONS BETWEEN THE CDU AND THE SPD HAVE INTENSIFIED, PRINCIPALLY OVER THE STRAUSS ISSUE. DR. JUERGEN WESTPHAL, MINISTER OF ECONOMICS AND TRANSPORT IN THE STOLTENBERG GOVERNMENT, INFORMED US RECENTLY THAT STOLTENBERG WAS INFURIATED BY STRAUSS' RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENT IN PASSAU EXCORIATING THE SPD/FDP BONN COALITION GOVERNMENT FOR FAILING TO EFFECT THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REFORMS IT HAS PROMISED AND LEADING THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC INTO A "PIG STY" CONDITION. ACCORDING TO WESTPHAL, STOLTENBERG HAS BEEN APPALLED BY STRAUSS' INTEMPERATE STATEMENTS WHICH HE BELIEVES HAVE UNDERMINED SOMEWHAT THE CDU'S CHANCES AT THE POLLS. FOR THIS REASON STOLTENBERG IS NOT AT ALL PLEASED THAT STRAUSS WILL BE SPEAKING IN SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN FOR THE PARTY BUT DARES NOT, ACCORDING TO CDU BUNDESTAG DEPUTY ERIC BLUMENFELD, DISSOCIATE HIMSELF PUBLICLY FROM THE CSU KING-MAKER WHO, IN THE LAST ANALYSIS, WILL HAVE A DECISIVE SAY IN THE SELECTION OF THE CDU CANDIDATE TO OPPOSE CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT IN THE 1976 NATIONAL ELECTIONS. CLEARLY, STOLTENBERG HAS BEEN SHAKEN AND WORRIED BY THE NEGATIVE INFLUENCE OF STRAUSS ON MANY MODERATE VOTERS IN SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN. WHILE WE AGREE IT COULD CUT A BIT INTO THE CDU'S COMFORTABLE LEAD, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE HOWEVER THAT THE CDU WILL WIN AN IMPRESSIVE VICTORY AT THE POLLS OF ABOUT 8 PERCENT OVER THE COMBINED FORCES OF THE SPD AND THE FDP AND REAFFIRM, THEREFORE, OUR PREDICTION OF THE PROBABLE RESULTS AS OUTLINED IN OUR A-7 OF MARCH 13, 1975.

BROGAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION FORECASTS, POLITICAL PARTIES, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HAMBUR00558
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750116-0112
From: HAMBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750486/aaaadane.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 A-7, 75 OF MARCH 13, 75 1975
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APRIL 13, 1975 LAND ELECTIONS IN SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN
TAGS: PINT, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006